

§ 25.44 How do we grant permits for easement area uses?

(a) The provisions of this subsection shall govern the regulation of activities that affect easement interests acquired by the United States. All other provisions of subchapter C shall apply to activities within such easement areas, but only to the extent that those provisions are directly or indirectly related to the protection of those easement interests expressly acquired by the United States which are specified in the easement agreement itself, and are not inconsistent with the provisions of this subsection.

(b) We require permits for use of easement areas administered by us where proposed activities may affect the property interest acquired by the United States. Applications for permits will be submitted in writing to the Regional Director or a designee. We may grant special use permits to owners of servient estates, or to third parties with the owner's agreement, by the Regional Director or a designee, upon written determination that such permitted use is compatible. If we ultimately determine that the requested use will not affect the United States' interest, the Regional Director will issue a letter of non-objection.

(c) In instances where the third applicant is a governmental entity which has acquired a partial interest in the servient estate by subsequent condemnation, a special use permit may be granted to the governmental entity without the servient estate owner's agreement if the regional director or his or her designee determines:

(1) The permitted use is compatible; and

(2) The permitted use is consistent with the partial property interests obtained through condemnation.

(d) Regulations pertaining to rights-of-way in easement areas are contained in 50 CFR part 29.21.

[51 FR 7575, Mar. 5, 1986, as amended at 65 FR 62482, Oct. 18, 2000]

§ 25.45 Appeals procedure.

(a) *Who may appeal.* Any person who is adversely affected by a refuge manager's decision or order relating to the person's permit granted by the Service,

or application for permit, within the National Wildlife Refuge System. This section does not apply to permits or applications for rights-of-way. See § 29.22 for the hearing and appeals procedure on rights-of-way.

(b) *Preliminary procedure.* Prior to making any adverse decision or order on a permit or application for permit, the refuge manager shall notify the permittee or applicant orally or in writing of the proposed action and its effective date. The permittee or applicant shall have twenty (20) days after notification in which to present to the refuge manager, orally or in writing, a statement in opposition to the proposed action or date. The permittee or applicant shall be notified in writing within twenty (20) days after receipt of the statement in opposition, of the refuge manager's final decision or order.

(c) *Appeals, how taken.* If the refuge manager still intends to proceed with the proposed action, the permittee or applicant shall have thirty (30) days from the postmarked date of the refuge manager's final decision or order in which to file a written appeal to the appropriate area manager. The appellant (permittee or applicant) shall be notified in writing within thirty (30) days from the postmarked date of the appeal of the area manager's decision. The appellant shall have (30) days from the postmarked date of the area manager's decision to further appeal in writing to the appropriate regional director.

(d) *Decision of regional director.* The regional director's decision shall be final and issued in writing to the appellant within thirty (30) days from the postmarked date of the appeal.

(e) *Oral presentation.* The appellant shall be provided an opportunity for oral presentation before the area manager or the regional director within the respective thirty (30) day appeal periods.

(f) *Addresses.* The addresses of the appropriate officials to whom appeals may be taken shall be furnished in each decision or order.

(g) *Suspension pending appeal.* Compliance with any decision or order of a refuge manager shall not be suspended by reason of an appeal having been

§ 25.51

taken unless such suspension is authorized in writing by the area manager or regional director (depending upon the official before whom the appeal is pending), and then only upon a determination by these officials that such suspension will not be detrimental to the interests of the United States or upon submission and acceptance of a bond deemed adequate to indemnify the United States from loss or damage.

[42 FR 64120, Dec. 22, 1977. Redesignated at 51 FR 7575, Mar. 5, 1986]

Subpart E—Fees and Charges

SOURCE: 52 FR 29860, Aug. 12, 1987, unless otherwise noted.

§ 25.51 General provisions.

Reasonable charges and fees may be established for public recreational use of and, except in Alaska, entrance onto national wildlife refuges. Regulations regarding recreational use fees are contained in 36 CFR part 71. Regulations regarding entrance fees are contained in this subpart E.

§ 25.52 Designation.

To be designated as an "Entrance Fee Area", a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System must be found to demonstrate that:

- (a) The level of visitation for recreational purposes is high enough to justify the collection of fees for admission permits for economic reasons;
- (b) There is a practical mechanism in existence for implementing and operating a system of collecting fees for admission permits; and
- (c) Imposition of a fee for admission permits is not likely to result in undue economic hardship for a significant number of visitors to the unit.

§ 25.53 Establishment of single visit entrance fees.

Entrance fees established for single visit permits at a designated Entrance Fee Area shall consider the following criteria with regard to the local area within which the refuge is located:

- (a) The direct and indirect cost to the Government.
- (b) The benefits to the permit holder.

50 CFR Ch. I (10–1–07 Edition)

(c) The public policy or interest served.

(d) The comparable fees charged by non-Federal public agencies.

(e) The economic and administrative feasibility of fee collection.

§ 25.54 Posting and public notification.

The public shall be notified that an entrance fee is charged through refuge publications and posted designation signs in accordance with § 25.31 of this part.

§ 25.55 Refuge admission permits.

(a) Unless otherwise provided, persons entering an Entrance Fee Area shall obtain and be in possession of a valid admission permit.

(b) The following five types of permits allowing entrance onto an Entrance Fee Area will be available for issue or purchase at such area and, except for refuge-specific permits, at Fish and Wildlife Service Regional and Washington, DC Offices, and at other locations as may be designated.

(1) Single visit permit with a charge not to exceed \$3 per person or \$7.50 per noncommercial vehicle (single visit can be defined as 1–15 days, dependent upon a determination of the period of time reasonably and ordinarily necessary for such a visit at a particular refuge unit).

(2) Golden Eagle Passport.

(3) Golden Age Passport.

(4) Golden Access Passport.

(5) Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation (Duck) Stamp. To be valid, the Duck Stamp must be current and bear the signature of the holder on the front.

§ 25.56 Enforcement.

Permits issued or used for entrance onto Entrance Fee Areas are non-transferable. Failure to pay the entrance fee, to display upon request of an authorized official a valid permit, or to comply with other entrance fee provisions, rules or regulations, will be subject to the penalties prescribed in 50 CFR 28.31.

§ 25.57 Exceptions and exemptions.

At Entrance Fee Areas: